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MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1914.

A WORTH-WHILE GIFT—You can make your friends happy every day in the year by sending them a subscription to THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH.

10 MORE DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

PARDON ME BUT DID YOU HEAR MY SUGGESTION ABOUT SHOPPING EARLY?



Congress as a New Field of Effort

UNCLE JOE CANNON'S statement that he has gone back to Congress that he may "prepare to meet his Maker" sounds strange and incongruous, and yet it must be accepted at its face value. However, very few statesmen in this country's recent history have selected the halls of Congress for that particular sort of preparation, and certainly it may be said without unkindness or irreverence that in his past service there "Uncle Joe" himself paid mighty little attention to his purely ethical development.

On these very accounts, though, the choice may prove a wise one. "In business," some cynic has said, "honesty is the best policy, because it assures freedom from all competition." "Uncle Joe," back in Congress and pursuing his newly-acquired ideal with his old-time force and ardor, will have an open field.

Waste in National Administration

FORMER President Taft's plea for a budget system of controlling national expenditures deserves public approval, and should, but probably will not, result in congressional action. The waste with which this government is conducted is known of all men, and has been a matter of common information for many years, but little or nothing is done to check this especially gross form of extravagance.

President Wilson expressed the general view very correctly, we think, when he said in his recent message that what the country demanded was economy, but not parsimony. The United States is too great a nation, too rich and powerful to grudge the money necessary to be spent in efficient administration for an intelligent system of defense and in useful public improvements.

Extravagance and waste in administration serve no useful purpose whatever. Former Senator Aldrich, who knew as much about this government as anybody, said that the annual waste resulting from duplicated effort and antiquated method and careless systems of purchasing supplies amounted to \$300,000,000. That is a big enough amount to attract any nation's attention. It is about time that some sensible reform should be adopted.

Helping Halting Nature

MEDICAL and surgical practice combine, suggestive therapeutics and various sorts of pseudo-medico-scientific cults, and all breeds of the occult practitioners hope to persuade themselves that they can—do what? Why, help halting nature, or arrest the progress of dissolution, open up fountains of youth, stave off the inevitable, send Charon back across the Styx with an empty ferry! Somehow or other, every agency dabbling in the laboratory of the soul plays hard on the human desire for health here and happiness hereafter. Hence the prosperity of numerous creeds and the fattening tills of multifarious makers of proprietary remedies. We all want them—the two things hard to be assured of through human intervention.

Painfully present among the most compelling desires of humankind are these: The fat would grow lean, the lean fat; the tall would lop off an inch or two, and the stubby would grow a mop and the woolly would swap their heads for the intellectual appearance of the bald. Whatever we have, there is something else we'd trade it for, and to that end we watch the press for every appearance of anything legitimate, or nearly so, that will help or promise to help us on our way.

All of which somewhat labored introduction is merely to announce that in Rochester, Ind., a physician has enabled a stunted child of nine years to grow two inches within two months, by feeding her the dried thyroid glands of sheep. For five years the child had not grown. At nine she was of the stature of four. Then came the thyroid glands and the extension dietary. It is to be hoped that she be not overfed. In that event, the good doctor have something else to feed her that will make her shrink? Otherwise, the family may as well have a hole chopped in the ceiling at once for her future comfort. For, at the rate of a foot

a year, the child, at the age of sixteen, will have to stoop bent double to thank her benefactor, and at her coming-out party she will of necessity entertain her company on step-ladders!

To Those Who Have Much

THERE are plenty of men in Richmond able to give generously to the fund The Times-Dispatch is raising for the support, in this time of special need, of the work of the Associated Charities. Perhaps their incomes have been reduced by the failure of some of the securities locked in their strong-boxes to pay accustomed dividends, but this very fact should direct their thought to the situation of those who own no stocks and bonds, whose pitiful savings have been spent, who find no work to do, and who face a winter of suffering and privation.

Here, gentlemen who have, is an opportunity for profitable investment—an investment in humanity, in human flesh and blood. More than any other immediately contributing factor, hopeless poverty tends to permanent inefficiency. Citizenship of the right type rarely emerges from the slum; the slum's inhabitants are an unending drain on the resources of the community.

This is a period of stress, from which, happily, the nation already begins to emerge. Help the honest and hard-working man who needs your help to-day, that he may tide over this financial chasm. Doing so, you strengthen him against adversity and keep him here at home, where in normal times he has done useful work and contributed essentially to Richmond's progress and Richmond's wealth.

This is an opportunity, let it be said again. Much of the casual charity in which the world indulges, because its heart is touched by some pathetic appeal, is hopelessly inefficient and demoralizing. It has no permanent influence, save as it tends to encourage the idle and shiftless in idle and shiftless ways. This work you are asked to do is a different proposition altogether. You must see that it is—you must know that it is. You are not urged to encourage poverty, but to prevent it.

Take out your checkbook now and make an investment in the menaced manhood and womanhood of your city!

Increasing the National Guard

WE are a peace-loving people, and Secretary Garrison's suggestion that the standing army be increased 25,000 to partly make up for the draft on police duty in the Canal Zone and in the Pacific will be looked upon with suspicion by those who view our love of peace too singly and regard the possibilities of enforced defense too lightly.

We have no policy of aggression. Our duty under the Monroe Doctrine is purely protective. Our business in the Philippines and Hawaii is strictly humanitarian. We have no business, save on a humanitarian and philanthropic basis, outside our own borders. We are not looking abroad, nor are we dreaming of territorial aggrandizement nor of world politics. Our own lares and penates interest us vastly more than poaching or inching our fences outward.

Of course, we have to consider the question of defense, and of preparedness for that defense. Our interest lies not in other lands nor on the high seas, but right here in this country that has not been scraped beneath the surface of its possibilities for development. What we need, and should have by all means, is a competent and equipped Home Guard. It may be that the standing army should be increased 25,000 men and 1,000 officers. This may or may not be the whole or partial solution of a problem.

To the man who opposes an enlarged standing army and still believes in preparedness, the strongest appeal will possibly be made by increased Federal and State aid for the National Guard. In too many States the National Guard is a beggar, with hat in hand, asking Legislatures to kindly drop a penny for charity's sake; giving balls to raise funds to pay the coal bill. This is all wrong. In the Spanish-American imbroglio the National Guard showed what it could do, and the big army thanks the tin soldiers to-day for contributions of mighty good officers who came up from the ranks. What could this country do better than work out a plan of co-operation between national and State governments, to make the National Guard attractive, honorable, creditable in every way?

It seems reasonable to suppose that Uncle Sam would encourage such a promotion of the National Guard, which would create a feeling of greater interest in the standing army. Congress, indeed, already has done much, but more can and should be done. It ought to be obvious that the regular army cannot be raised in times of peace to 500,000 men without an intolerable burden of expense or some form of conscription. Increasing the National Guard, both in numbers and efficiency, is the practicable answer to most of the defense problems.

Keep to Tax Revision

THE TIMES-DISPATCH hopes that the General Assembly, at its special session, will stick to the purpose for which it has been called together—consideration of the tax problem and relief of the State from the burden of antiquated and inequitable tax laws under which it now groans and suffers.

There are other problems, doubtless, the solution of which, under ordinary circumstances, might be undertaken with profit by the Legislature. Present circumstances, however, are by no means ordinary. What the best thought of the Commonwealth demands and justice and progress unite to approve is tax reform. Virginia is shackled so long as the existing situation is permitted to continue.

The subject is a difficult and complicated one. The Committee on Tax Revision has given long and patient consideration to its vexed features, and yet the members of that committee were not able to agree. The committee's conclusions are expressed in majority and minority reports, although majority and minority agree that the two plans separately favored are each the best of its kind.

It all goes to show that the Legislature must give its undivided attention to the subject of taxation, if wise and just results reasonably are to be expected. Other legislation, however desirable, must await the solution of this problem, which is of exigent and compelling necessity.

Some baseball players seem to know more about jumping than running.

Apparently it is even more unlucky to tread on the tail of Serbia's coat than to follow a similar course in the case of Belgium.

SONGS AND SAWS

Dad Doesn't Mind.

Little Tommy's made his mind up
That his joy will be complete,
If he gets a watch you wind up
And a drum that you can beat.

Tommy's father is quite willing—
He expects to be away,
And all sorts of game a-killing
On the Merry Christmas Day.

He'll be back soon after New Year's
When he's sure the drum will be
Quite unfit to smite his two ears
With its clamorous minstrelsy.

The Time Limit.

He—When are you going to stop this gadding
and permit us to lead a quiet life?
She—Don't know exactly. Just when does
Lent begin, anyhow?

Shocking!

A kindly old lady who grew
in girlhood with the years that
she knew,
Shocked her pastor one day
By the frolicsome way
She skipped rope and ob-
structed his view.

The Ruling Passion.

Stubbs—That was a painful accident that hap-
pened to old Closefist.
Grubbs—What did he do?
Stubbs—Sprained his wrist reaching into the
collection plate and trying to extract change for a
quarter.

The Peasimist Says:

This certainly is a Christmas weather.
Anybody who can be merry while carrying
this handicap deserves an extra portion of credit
and praise.

No Lingerings.

"Just when do you expect to leave?"
The cornered mouse besought the cat.
"Right after lunch," the cat replied;
"And I shall make short work of that!"
THE TATTLER.

Chats With Virginia Editors

And now it's the Chase City Progress that comes along in a Christmas cover bordered with green sledges drawn by red reindeer, snowcapped sky-larks, and a spire pointing to the star of the East and other kindred things. We note, too, that Editor George Buila Crayton has joined the ranks of those advanced journalists who refuse to spell it Xmas. Without vouchsafing an intimation of what's on his mind he starts off his Christmas number editorial column with this cabalistic query: "But won't there be a big difference at Christmas in 1916?"

Readers of the South Hill Enterprise are informed by Editor Rathbone that in theatres will be prohibited in Richmond after this week. Evidently the sign, "Gentlemen will not smoke," has not the desired effect or else does not apply to all the males attending the show. Mayhap the editor from South Hill found his way into some showshop which we have yet to discover, or perchance there has been some quiet smoking going on in our theatres, of which we wist not, though well we are aware there's no smoking allowed.

"It's 'possum and taters" time in Accomac. The Peninsula Enterprise records an event of the season thus: "Mr. Len Bell on returning home last week from a visit to the home of his 'best girl,' living just out of town, the night being dark and his lantern shining brightly—and walking good—came unexpectedly upon a big fat 'possum, which, blinded by his light, he says, turned over and grinned at him, whereupon he seized it by its caudal appendage and forthwith took it home with him." It is noted that the sly old varmint tried his feigned grin of sympathy on the wrong swain. No Accomac man can be fooled by a 'possum.

Governor Stuart's proposition to colonize Belgian farmers in Virginia has the indorsement of Editor Beasley, of the South Boston News, who says: "Why not bring some of the Belgians to Virginia? They would make good citizens; besides, we need men to till our lands and help develop our resources. Our farmers need help, owing to the fact that too many of the young Americans are going into the city."

"The New York Stock Exchange is convalescing," says the Newport News Times-Herald, meaning that the bulls and bears will soon be in condition to make the lambs shoulder that tired feeling.

Says the Tidewater Democrat: "This is about the time when our forests are robbed of the beautiful holly, which is packed in boxes and shipped to the city and used for decoration during the Christmas season. We dislike to see the wanton destruction of it, but there seems to be enough and to spare." Now see here, you Editor Latane. Does your paper yesterday you spoke of receptacles attached to iron posts being put up on the street corners for trash and paper. It struck me as a good idea when I saw in London baskets for that purpose attached to the posts of the letter boxes.

Having always been interested in the beauty of our city and the appearance of the streets, I have been a close observer of causes—and alleys! I don't mean the alleys behind the stores, especially the dry goods stores, quantities of scraps of paper left by the carts removing the trash or dropped by them. These naturally find their place in the letter boxes.

Houses and stores at the corners of the streets have the pavements in front nicely swept every day, and have the snow cleaned off when it falls. Should not the sides and alleys of lots be required to be also kept in a neat condition, as they make as much for the cleanliness and appearance of the city as does the front? A stretch of snow on a side street makes most uncomfortable walking, and unswept pavements do away with the appearance of the whole.

Then, again, isn't there any way—should it not be somebody's duty—to have pavements swept by the city, or by the street cleaners? I have been a close observer of causes—and alleys! I don't mean the alleys behind the stores, especially the dry goods stores, quantities of scraps of paper left by the carts removing the trash or dropped by them. These naturally find their place in the letter boxes.

As it has been begun, let's continue to cultivate our civic pride in neatness as well as beauty. ANOTHER OBSERVER.
Richmond, December 10, 1914.

Queries and Answers

Sepecon.

Does a person receive by law any part of the property of his stepmother?
He does not.

Foreign-Born Parents.

Is a person born in the United States of foreign-born parents a citizen of this country?
Yes.

Life of Erskine.

Please tell me where I may get a life of Lord Erskine.
Your bookseller can get it for you.

Fairfield Police.

Please give the names of the sworn police of Fairfield District, in Henrico County.
SUBSCRIBER.

Miss Stone, the Missionary.

When and by whom was Miss Stone, the missionary, captured and held for ransom?
By the bandits in Macedonia.
September 30, 1901.

National Academy of Sciences.

Please tell me whom to write to touching the National Academy of Sciences, U. S. GOVERNMENT.
Home secretary, Arnold L. Day, Washington, D. C.

injustice and bad policy of such a situation have been obscured by the moral repudiation of the act. This is short-sighted. The moral act should be amended so as to limit its use as an instrument of extortion or more revenge.—Chicago Tribune.

War News Fifty Years Ago

From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 14, 1864.

It is something of a curious phase of war that Sherman's position in front of Savannah is exactly the same that Hood holds in front of Nashville. Just why these military chieftains should have run away from each other, instead of fighting it out where they were, the layman cannot exactly understand. It is what we want with Tennessee when Georgia is devastated, and what do the Yankees want with Georgia when Tennessee is devastated? These are questions that military experts may be able to answer to their satisfaction, but the people who are paying the bills can't see any sense in it at all.

The reconnaissance of General Longstreet and the shelling of Port Oiler were the closing events of the expedition; that is, such is the opinion of the military experts on both sides of the line, but military experts, no matter which side of the line they may be on, are not always reliable. The real fighters may yet find something to do. But that, as it is, no movement of importance is expected until the New Year or some time thereafter.

The holiday season is at hand, and it applies to war as well as to peace. Information comes from across the line that General Grant has already hurried himself off to Governors Island, near New York, where he will spend the holidays in the bosom of his family. General Lee keeps in close touch with the operations in front of Petersburg, but it is understood that for several days, maybe several weeks, he will spend the most of his time with his family on Franklin Street, in this city.

There is abundant information that General Warren's Federal expedition towards Belvidere was a decided failure. General Hampton broke into Warren's plans and upset them in handsome style. Warren did manage to get back to the Grant lines in fairly good shape. If Hampton had not made an end to Warren and all of his gang, but he didn't have the men, and that was the end of it.

There were no advices yesterday from South Georgia, but it is understood that General Bragg is still holding his own at and about Augusta. If Beauregard and the other Confederate commanders will do as well in and about Savannah, all will be well. But will they?

Since General Longstreet drove the Yankees back over Hatcher's Run, the Federal army has seemed to be satisfied, and perfect quiet has reigned on the lines below Richmond and in front of Petersburg.

The report comes from Tennessee that the Federals are making every possible effort to clear the Cumberland River from Nashville down. To that end they have sent gunboats down the river to try to whip out the Confederate batteries all along the river front and on both sides of the stream. So far they have been themselves whipped, several of their gunboats having been sunk by the fire of the land batteries.

Colonel Thomas S. Ashe has been elected Confederate States Senator from North Carolina to succeed Senator Dorton. Senator Ashe defeated the Hon. E. G. Reid, who favored a peace policy, while Ashe declared himself as being in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war.

The way in which General Wade Hampton worried General Warren and his marauders before they finally succeeded in getting back to the Federal lines, was worth telling about. A special correspondent of the Dispatch was on the ground, and his account of the whole thing will appear in this paper at an early date.

Friends of General Lee, evidently authorized by him, appeared before the Legislature yesterday and respectfully asked that further consideration of the proposition to aid General Lee financially be dispensed with.

There can be no doubt of the fact that the intention of the Legislature to call off all military operations in the regions around Richmond and Petersburg for some time to come. The soldiers on both sides are brave enough to make the most of their duty to their country, but there are certain limits beyond which human nature cannot go.

The Voice of the People

Losses in Stuart's Cavalry.

Sir—I read with much interest in your issue of the 6th instant the account of Colonel Mosby's celebration of his eighty-first birthday, but the author makes a mistake in saying that no man here was killed on the killing of Stuart and McClellan's army in June, 1862. My own captain, Latane, was killed leading his squadron, composed of Company E of Spotsylvania and Company F of Essex County.

Bowler's Wharf, Va., December 11, 1914.

Another Voice for a Clean City.

Sir—In your paper yesterday you spoke of receptacles attached to iron posts being put up on the street corners for trash and paper. It struck me as a good idea when I saw in London baskets for that purpose attached to the posts of the letter boxes.

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Your bookseller can get it for you.

Fairfield Police.

Please give the names of the sworn police of Fairfield District, in Henrico County.
SUBSCRIBER.

Miss Stone, the Missionary.

When and by whom was Miss Stone, the missionary, captured and held for ransom?
By the bandits in Macedonia.
September 30, 1901.

National Academy of Sciences.

Please tell me whom to write to touching the National Academy of Sciences, U. S. GOVERNMENT.
Home secretary, Arnold L. Day, Washington, D. C.

SOMETIMES IT'S LIKE THIS

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the Indianapolis News.

HEROES AWARDED VICTORIA CROSS

(Correspondence of Associated Press.)

LONDON, December 1.—The granting of the Victoria Cross within the last few weeks brings the total number of these awards during the present war up to twenty-one.

The cross is the highest reward given to the British army for some signal act of valor or devotion performed in the presence of the enemy. The medal is in the form of a Maltese cross of bronze, bearing in the center the royal crown. It is worn by the holder on a ribbon, the ribbon is blue for the navy and red for the army. The decoration is accompanied by a pension of \$50 a year.

The ten latest "V. C." awards are as follows:

Private Sidney Godley, Royal Fusiliers—For coolness and gallantry in fighting his machine gun under a hot fire for two hours after he had been wounded at Mons on August 23.

Driver J. D. Drayton and Driver Frederick Luke, Royal Field Artillery—At LeCateau, on August 26, as volunteers, helping to save guns under fire from men playing 100 yards away.

Major Charles Yates, deceased, King's Own Light Infantry—Commanded one of two companies that remained to the end in trenches at LeCateau on August 26, and, under heavy fire, kept the wounded, led his nineteen survivors in gallant charge. Wounded; died in hands of opponents.

Lance Corporal Frederick Holmes, King's Own Light Infantry—At LeCateau, on August 26, carried wounded men from trenches under heavy fire; later assisted to drive a gun out of action by taking place of a wounded driver.

Captain Edward Bradbury, deceased, Royal Horse Artillery—Organized defense of battery against heavy odds at Nery on September 1.

Captain William Henry Johnston, Royal Engineers—At Missy, on September 14, under heavy fire worked two rafts braving back wounded, and returning with ammunition.

Drummer Specialist John Bent Ask, Lancashire Regiment—For taking command and succeeding in holding a position after his officer had been struck down, and other officers killed.

Bombardier Ernest Harlock, now sergeant, Royal Field Artillery—For conspicuous gallantry on September 15 near Vendresse; although twice wounded.

Paris Theatres to Open

(Correspondence of Associated Press.)

PARIS, December 1.—Many theatres soon will be reopened, thanks to Minister of the Interior Malvy, who has obtained from his colleagues permission to do as he saw fit with the amusement places. The lower lights also soon will be burning on the boulevards.

The Opera Comique will reopen with "The Daughter of the Regiment" as the first attraction. The lower lights also, draped in the French colors, will sing the Marseillaise between the acts. The orchestra is ready and the cast complete, excepting this leading tenor. The place of this tenor, who has been killed, is taken by a postman at Nogent, is not easy to fill.

"Here I am and here I stay," says Jacques Rouche when any one asks it is true that he will give the direction of the opera.

The national opera house, however, is cold and dark, and callers crowd into the porters lodge, for the porter alone about the place has the funds to buy champagne. The lower lights also, draped in the French colors, will sing the Marseillaise between the acts. The orchestra is ready and the cast complete, excepting this leading tenor. The place of this tenor, who has been killed, is taken by a postman at Nogent, is not easy to fill.

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persisted in returning to lay his gun each time after wounds dressed. Lance Corporal Dobson, Coldstream Guards—For gallantry in leading men into cover on two occasions while under heavy fire.

The most conspicuous of these ten heroes is Captain Bradbury, whose capture by the Germans was determined by the retreat towards Paris. Battery L, while covering the retreat, was attacked by a strong German force with ten field guns and two Maxim. The British guns were brought into action, but two of them were quickly silenced. Bradbury and his men served the remaining gun so well, however, that all but one of the German guns were silenced, and when Battery L was relieved, this gun was captured.

An account of the action says: "Captain Bradbury was the real hero. He got the gun into action and gave orders. Mundy knelt on one side as ranging officer; Bradbury, Campbell and Giffard, with the battery sergeant-major, under cover of the gun, served the gun. Bradbury had one leg taken off, but still went on; Campbell and Mundy were killed. Bradbury had his other leg taken off, and Giffard was badly wounded. Bradbury was the only one going; and when Battery L came up they found the Germans had bolted. Only the major and Giffard, who received five bullets, survived."

The Victoria Crosses have now been awarded in connection with this fight. Sergeant-Major Dorrell and Sergeant Nelson having already received the decoration. In addition, Lieutenant Giffard, Gunnery Sergeant Driver Osborne were awarded French decorations.

The first Indian to be recommended for the Victoria Cross is Havildar (sergeant) Ganga Ram Singh, of the Fifth, seventh and eighth regiments. The Havildar, with fifteen men, was attacked in the trenches just before dawn by an over-whelming force of the enemy. He and his men fought bravely, and when the hand-to-hand struggle was over, he and his men